

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD  
Washington, D. C.

October 28, 1914.

NEWS LETTER NO. 13.

Dear Sir:

DOES THE CHESTNUT BARK DISEASE OCCUR IN THE NURSERIES OF YOUR REGION?

During the eleven years the Chestnut Bark Disease has been known to exist in the United States, it has spread from its original point of introduction with such rapidity that it now covers the northern half of the native chestnut zone and has destroyed a number of chestnut orchards.

Recent discoveries of new spots of infection have impressed on us the danger of its spread by means of infected nurse stock far beyond the limits of the infected region. For example, a young infected tree, not long from the nursery, has recently been discovered at Lincoln, Nebraska.

It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the disease may be found in any nursery in the United States which has in recent years imported chestnut stock from the diseased region in the eastern United States or from the Orient.

The rapid destruction of the chestnut nut crop of the east makes possible the development of chestnut orchards in the West far away from where the native chestnut grows. But to succeed with these THE STOCK MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAN and the disease must not be introduced. The nurseries must be kept clean.

We, therefore, urge every inspector, pathologist and nut grower in the country to cooperate with us in a survey of the chestnut nurseries of the country.

Will you not carefully examine the chestnut stock in the nurseries in your region? Watch the nurse stock that is coming into the region from every source. Mail to us ample specimens of every suspicious tree which you may find.

BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE PACKAGE. \*We will be glad to examine the specimens and report to you our findings.

If you will notify me that you wish it, I will send to you a specimen of chestnut affected with this disease to put in your collection. It will be treated with formaldehyde. Note especially the mycelial fans visible on the cut surface which form the most accurate means of identification of this disease.

I am sending you a copy of Yearbook Separate No. 598 which describes the disease.

The Pathological Inspector stands ready at all times to help you in securing information concerning any plant disease which may trouble you.

R. KENT BEATTIE.

Pathological Inspector.